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AUGUST 8th, 1974, ISSUE No. 30

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Surf Leaders & Rigs

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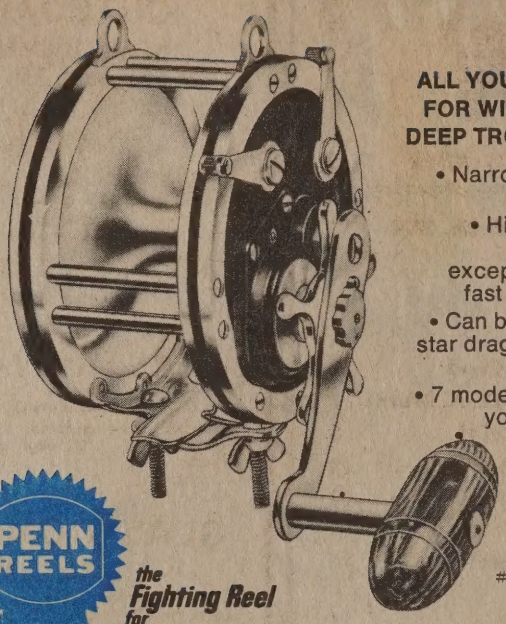

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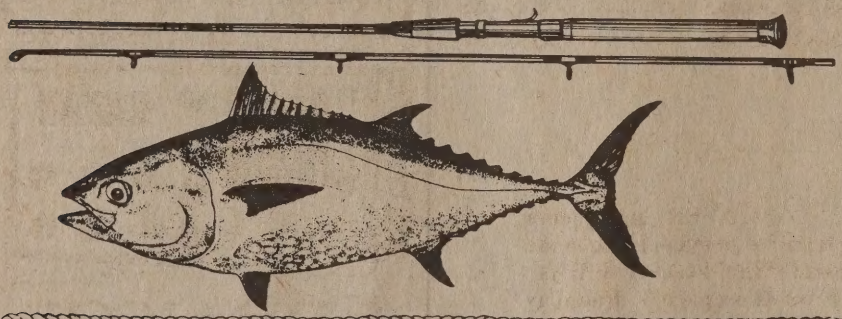

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CLUB NEWS

(Send club items you wish to have publicized to: CLUB NEWS, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729)

CAPRI ANGLERS CLUB OPENS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Capri Anglers Fishing Club is now open for new members, male or female, aged 18 and over. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month in the "Plaza" in Hicksville at 8 P.M. For further info., please call: Ed Ponsiek, Treas., (516) 822-7047; Eleanor A. Hahn, Sec'y., IV-1-3462.

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT FISHERMEN'S CLUB INC.

The next meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club will be held on Monday night, the 12th of August, at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Mt. Sinai Community House, located on North Country Rd., in Mt. Sinai.

After a short business meeting, members will discuss the 2nd Annual Brookhaven Town Fishing Contest, which is run on a cooperative basis between the Town of Brookhaven and North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club. The contest is scheduled for Sunday morning, September 8th, and is open to all Brookhaven Town residents.

Last year's fishing contest drew 388 youngsters and an additional 88 for The Casting Tournament, which was run at the same time as the Fishing Contest, at the same location, Cedar Beach, in Mt. Sinai.

As usual, giant trophies will be given out to the lucky winners of this year's contest. All town residents are invited to participate. Fishing will start at dawn, and end at about 11:00 AM, at which time the fishing trophies will be given out. By the way, if fishing isn't your sport, but you would like to see how a contest is run, why not plan to attend anyway!

In other club business, three new members were accepted into the N.B.S.F.C...They were: John Geipel of Ridge, Robert Eckland of Shoreham, and Joe Cardone of Centereach. For more information on the N.B.S.F.C., call (in Rock Point): (516) 744-6260; (Lake Ronkonkoma): (516) 588-6080.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 9, Number 30 August 8th, 1974

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ABOUT THE COVER: A surfman carries his gaffed bluefish back to the beach. Read "Surf Leaders & Rigs" by Vlad Evanoff on page 8. (Photo by Dick Mermon.)

PUBLISHER
Rich Reina

EDITOR
Glenn Voparil

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Mike Zarrella

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Stu Miller

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Scott Simons

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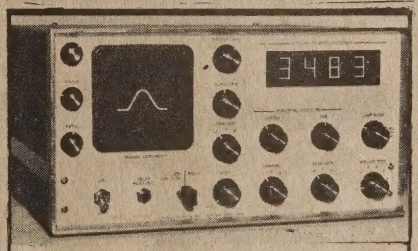

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Chum Lines

In your July 18 issue under chum lines you had a note, "Fishing-No Boat". A man wrote in asking for a list of places to fish from shore and I would like to suggest one place.

Some people tell you that you have to go out in a boat, with fancy tackle, and spend a lot of money to catch big fish. Then there are the people who tell you that you have to fight the crashing surf, with a 12 foot stick and a reel full with 300 yds. of 30 lb. test to get those really big ones.

NOT TRUE! There are numerous places you can fish from shore, but I am going to concentrate on just one: Little Neck Bay. It is located on the north shore, and is only a stones throw (or should I say "cast") away from the Throgs Neck Bridge.

In the spring and fall you can be there for those striped bass. In the spring, since the fish are slow and sluggish, bait is your best bet. A nice big sandworm on a 6/0 Eagle Claw hook attached to a fish-finder rig will do just fine. This should turn the trick if there are any bass in those waters. Now if you want to try using lures, keep one thing in mind: reel them in slowly. Those fish don't want to move!!

Now, moving into August and September, you'll want to go into a little more detail. The main fish that will be around at that time will be bluefish. To start off with, a 9 foot medium action rod with a reel that holds about 250 yds. of 15 lb. test will be perfect. What you will mostly be using is bait, but you might want to have an assortment of plugs and metal squids. Bluefish hooks from 6/0 to 8/0 and sinkers up to 4 ozs. will do fine. Your bait can be mossbunker, mackerel and butterfish. You can also use snapper blues that you can catch right there while fishing for their big brothers.

The average blues that come out of the bay run from 7 to 12 lbs., with some going as high as 20. So hold your rods and keep the bait on for those *big choppers in Little Neck Bay.*

If everyone put in their little article or story, it would be a great help and pleasure for everyone. I would like to compliment you on your interest in your readers and fellow fishermen.

Bill Herlihy
Rego Park, N.Y.

Mr. Herlihy has taken the bull by the horns by answering our challenge in chum lines. We appreciate the fact he has responded to a legitimate request of some of the readers. Compliments to you, Bill, for Your interest in the readers and fellow fishermen!

THE CORN CHUM PROBLEM RESOLVED

I know that you and your readers are interested in what has been called "the corn chum problem." I do not intend to go into the details of this controversy, for I am sure that both you and your readers are fully aware of them.

You may have seen a preliminary report which I wrote for *The New York State Environment* (Volume 4, Number 1, July 1, 1974). As I stated in the article, at that time I had not fully analyzed the accumulated data. Well, I have now completed the data analysis and I can make a final judgement. I can now safely state that the feeding of canned kernel corn did not alter the condition of winter flounder. Likewise, canned kernel corn did not kill any of the winter flounder used in the experiment. On the basis of the scientific evidence before me, I can say that the use of canned kernel corn as a chum for winter flounder thus appears to be in no way deleterious to the condition of the species.

I hope that this will ease the anxiety in the minds of some of your readers with regards to the use of canned kernel corn as chum. When the complete scientific paper is published, I shall send you a reprint.

Philip T. Briggs
Senior Aquatic Biologist (Marine)
D.E.C., Stony Brook, N.Y.

The Fisherman and its readers thank Dr. Briggs for his information, and yes, we would very much like to see a reprint of his paper. We're certain that many anglers will now feel more at ease when dribbling canned kernel corn over the side for the flatties.

Tch! Tch! Fred

Back to your books, Fred Guardineer. Daniel Webster did not write the dictionary. That was Noah Webster, no relation. But Daniel did indeed take the world's record brookie from the Carman's River in 1827. (As though being a legislator, lawyer, Secretary of State and folk hero were not enough for one life.)

The story, as I heard it, has Daniel nodding through a stuffy church sermon when the nearby river's temptation proved too powerful to

resist. The Great Man left the church, drawing the congregation and minister along to the Carman's where he landed the 14 pound 8 ounce trout. Oddly enough, the catch was recorded in the church's register. According to the story, Martin Van Buren was present, but according to history, he was not to become president for another ten years.

Fred, I offer you two choices to atone for you error—1) memorize Daniel's plea to the jury "The Devil and Daniel Webster" or 2) tell me more about fresh water fishing for trout on Long Island.

Thanks for a fancinating and usually dead accurate column.

Orrie Frutkin
Forest Hills, N.Y.

We'll consider ourselves soundly thrashed for allowing the error to go through. Didn't Noah build the Ark, too?

News Releases

OFF-SHORE DRILLING NO GOOD

The Save Our Bays Assn., of Long Island, today accused Gov. Edwards of Louisiana of speaking half-truths to the Long Island public last month when he visited our area in a propaganda attempt to convince us that Off-Shore Drilling is a blessing.

A statement before the Louisiana Shrimp Assn., by Dr. Sherwood Gagliano of The Coastal Environment Inc., (3/14/74) gives the lie to what Gov. Edwards told a Long Island audience as to how compatable the oil industries and the environment are in Louisiana.

Dr. Gagliano remarks, which have been sent to the L.I. Association of Commerce and Industry, (who are sponsoring a trip to the drilling rigs off LA. on Aug. 5th), for distribution to the 18 participants going to Louisiana, makes strong accusaions as to how bad the marine environment is being lost and he recommends strong action at once to protect the marine system.

SOBA recommends that we learn by these new facts and suggests that any one else coming to Long Island to tell us what we are missing, be sent packing at once.

The truth will come out—even if it takes a little time and we hope that in the case of Off-Shore Drilling that we learn by the mistakes of other states. Present day operations of Off-Shore Oil Drilling destroys vital marshlands and wetlands and **must not** occur off Long Island.

For further information call George H. Wilde at (516) SU-5-3139.

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Party Boat Blues

by Jeff Lockwood

Almost every salt water fisherman loves to fish for bluefish. They are vicious, greedy and usually very co-operative for a skilled fisherman. Which is the best way to score with the blues? Personally, I like to fish in the surf. However, surfcasting is good only during certain tides, winds, phases of the moon, etc. Offshore fishing is generally far more consistent.

For many people, the party boat is the most convenient and productive method. The captains are up to date on where the fish are schooled up and what they are feeding on. The electronic equipment and the helpful crew insure even the beginner of having an excellent chance of catching some blues.

If you are going on a party boat for blues, try to go on a weekday instead of a weekend or holiday because of smaller crowds. Even better is a trip at night. The boats sail at about seven from the various ports and return around 2:00 A.M. Generally, the night trips are less crowded, except for the Friday and Saturday night trips, which are pretty well filled up.

A big advantage of any night trip is that there is often a remarkable difference in the quality of the fishing. On a hot summer day, the fishing could be only fair or even poor. But that same night, fishermen might catch thousands of blues in that area that produced poorly during the day.

There are several ways to catch choppers on a party boat. The boats almost always chum with ground-up bunker. They will have cut bait to use; usually bunker, herring or some other bait species. If the weather is nice enough for a drift, it is best to fish on the side where your line will drift away from the boat. Ask the mate about how to bait up, how much line to let out, when to strike the fish or any other question you might have. He will know the techniques that have produced lately.

Sometimes it pays to go to the "wrong" side of the boat, and cast a three-to eight-ounce diamond jig. Casting should be done **underhand**, ahead of the drift. A great advantage of this method is that you will have this side pretty much to yourself. You will also be presenting the first lure (or bait) to fish which have yet to have the boat pass over them.

Most of the hooks sold for chumming are much too large for all but the dumbest, hungriest bluefish around. You should do better by using smaller hooks, such as 4/0 or 5/0 gold beak hooks. These should be attached to a small, black swivel by means of a four-to five-inch length of steel wire or cable which tests about the same as the line you are using (20 to 50 lb.). Use crimping pliers and sleeves if cable is used, or a Haywire Twist if wire is used.

When fishing with these hooks, tie your line to the swivel and put several split shot or clinch sinkers on the line if it won't sink.

If it is too windy or rough to drift, the boat will anchor. For the first few hours of fishing, the best method should be drifting out the bait in the chum slick. But, after a while, the chum begins to settle under the boat, and the fish will probably stay right under the boat to feed on the pieces of chum falling down to them. When this happens, a good idea might be to work a diamond jig right on the bottom.

Another way to get these lazy fish is to use bait and a sinker rig. Tie a suitable weight sinker to the bottom of the line. About two feet above, tie the hook with a Dropper Loop. Simply fish it on the bottom; no jigging necessary. When the fish picks up the bait, let out a few feet of line, then strike him **hard**, two or three times.

This is basically what party boat bluefishing is all about. Please take only as many fish as you can use, and keep your garbage on the boat. Let's hope the crew will, too; at least until the boat docks, so that it can be properly disposed of.

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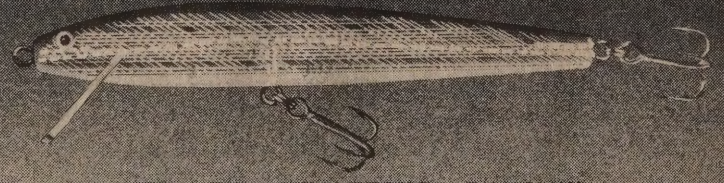

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Reader Response to Questionnaire

by Dr. William A. Muller

Congratulations folks! Your response to part II of this series almost, but not quite, beat out "Krazy Kaptions" as the Long Island Fisherman's biggest response getter. In fact, as the responses continue to trickle in, the questionaire may overtake captions in the end.

Seriously, we were truly impressed by the quality of the response, and I think this is an indication of the sincere interest and commitment of many fishermen in the conservation effort. Many prominent citizens responded, as did local clubs and organizations. Many people took the time to write a short comment or two to offer practical support as conditions may warrant in the future.

Except for the first two questions, which determined to learn what percentage of the responding readers had read part I of the series and then responded at that time, the feelings of the readers are clearly of a common opinion. For example question 6; 96% of those responding believe that the D.E.C. and the legislature of the State of New York are **not** sufficiently concerned with Long Island's ecological problems. The only conclusion can be that our readers have arrived at this opinion through the experience of seeing continuous and consistent abuse and neglect.

Well it looks like we have a mandate to continue our efforts (100%) so we will continue to explore deficiencies in official state positions, D.E.C. structure and organization, as well as to focus on special ecological problems in the weeks and month ahead.

This has been only the beginning, however, and we will continue to need your support in the future.

SUMMARY OF READER RESPONSE TO PART II QUESTIONAIRE

Numbers represent percentages of total responses and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.	**PERCENTAGE YES ANSWERS**	**PERCENTAGE NO ANSWERS**
1. Did you read Part I of this series "A Case for Disbanding the D.E.C."	71	29
2. Did you respond to us by mail or phone?	5	95
3. Do you believe that our marine coastal resources need strong management?	100	0
4. Do you believe that our salt water food and game fishes need management?	100	0
5. Are you convinced that the D.E.C. is doing an effective job of managing and conserving our marine coastal resources?	1	99
6. Do you believe that the D.E.C. and the legislature of The State of New York are sufficiently concerned with Long Island's ecological problems?	4	96
7. Do you believe that our marine game-fish are underexploited, underharvested, and in no danger from man's activities?	3	97
8. Do you believe that we need more research into the behavior and biology of marine fish?	96	4
9. Will you support our efforts to improve the future for our marine gamefish and foodfish, to cause the legislature of The State of New York to wake up to our problems and spend some money on Long Island in an attempt to solve these problems, and to have the D.E.C. take more conspicuous action to manage and conserve our marine coastal resources?	99	1
10. Should we continue our efforts in these directions?	100	0

Surf Leaders & Rigs

by Vlad Evanoff

The terminal rigs used in surf fishing are important and can mean a big difference between catching and not catching fish. Surf fishing along sandy beaches, rocky shores or from jetties is hard on all surf tackle, but especially so on the part that actually makes contact with the sand, bottom, rocks, barnacles, mussels and the fish, itself.

If you are going to use artificial lures, you should use a "shock" leader in front of your regular fishing line. This is especially vital when using surf spinning tackle, where lines are thin and usually test from only about 10 to 25 pounds. Here I prefer using a shock leader testing a few pounds more than the actual fishing line. Thus, if you are fishing with a 15 pound test line you can use a 20 or 25 pound test monofilament shock leader.

Some anglers like to use even heavier leaders, but then you run into the problem of bulky knots. Besides, the thicker leaders are more readily seen by the fish. The shocker should be long so that several turns of it can be reeled on the spool when you are ready to cast.

With a conventional surf outfit (one using a revolving spool reel) you can often get away with no shock leader if you are using heavy monofilament line testing 30 or 36 pounds. But if you are using braided nylon or dacron line you should add a monofilament shock leader ahead of this line. Braided line is more visible than mono, and wears and chafes more on the end. With conventional tackle, monofilament shock leader should be just long enough to fall a few inches short of the reel spool; in other words, it should not wind onto the reel when you're ready to cast. Unlike lighter spinning lines, which are wound on the spool, the lines and leaders used with conventional outfits are heavy; the resultant bulky knots will cause trouble if wound onto a spool. The monofilament leader you use with a conventional rod can be the same test as the braided line, or it can be several pounds stronger.

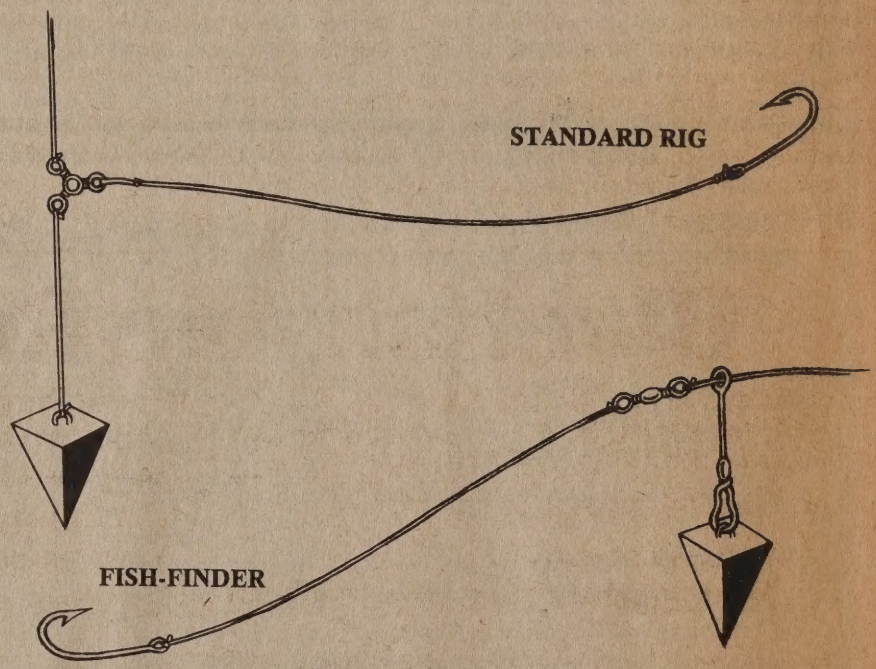
A shock leader will save a lot of lures which would otherwise be lost during a cast. This is especially true when using light lines. The heavier leader can accept more wear and tear from rocks, mussels, barnacles and the sand, and takes the strain off the weaker fishing line when you get a fish close to the beach, jetty or rocky shore. With it you can often lift small fish, or drag them up on the beach or rock.

A good knot to use when connecting the main fishing line to the shock leader is the Double Surgeon's knot. (See illustration). It can be used with different kinds of lines and leaders, even if they vary in diameter and strength.

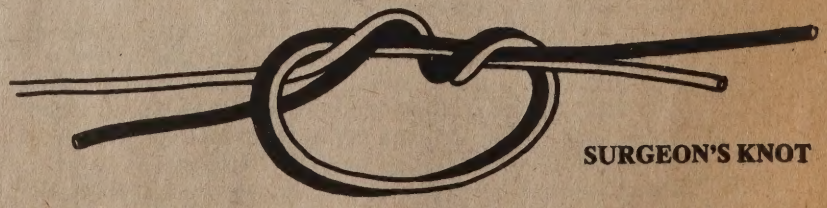
On the end of your shock leader you can attach a snap-swivel for changing lures. The type I prefer for this is the "Pompanette," which, even in the smaller sizes, is strong and dependable.

The natural bait fisherman in the surf has to use surf bottom rigs. You'll need three-way swivels, sinkers, fish-finders, leader material or mono line and hooks. If bluefish are around you may need wire leader material, too. The most popular hooks for surf fishing rigs are the Eagle Claw, Beak and O'Shaughnessy patterns.

The basic surf fishing rig is the so-



Two popular rigs for bottom fishing in the surf are shown here. (A) is the "standard" surf bottom rig, while (B) is the "fish-finder" surf bottom rig. The size and type of hooks used, the weight of the sinkers and the length of the leaders will vary according to species sought and fishing conditions.



The "double surgeon's" knot shown above is used to join a shock leader to the main fishing line. It holds well even though lines of different diameters or materials are used.

called "standard" rig, which makes use of a three-way swivel. The sinker is tied on a short dropper to one eye of the swivel, and the leader and hook are tied to another eye. This leader can be nylon monofilament, cable or stainless steel wire, and can vary in length from 12 to 30 inches—depending on the fish sought and the fishing being done. And, of course, you use the hook size and pattern best suited for the fish you want to catch. Finally, the running line is tied to the remaining eye of the three-way swivel and the rig is ready to use.

The other rig often used in surf fishing is the "fish-finder" type. The fish-finder has a ring on one end and a snap on the other for the sinker. Another type has a plastic sleeve through which the line runs. The complete rig can be bought in almost any fishing tackle store. The fishing line goes through the ring or sleeve and a barrel swivel is tied to the end of the line. Then the leader with the hook is attached to the eye of the barrel swivel. The idea is to allow a suspicious fish to pick up the bait and move off with it for a short distance without dragging the sinker. The line slides through the ring or sleeve on the fish finder—or is supposed to. When you cast or retrieve this rig, the barrel swivel acts as a stop at the ring or sleeve. (See illustrations of the rigs).

Although pyramid sinkers from two to five ounces are best for surf fishing along sandy beaches, some anglers like to use bank sinkers because they roll more with the waves or tide, thereby covering more ground. Of course, when fishing along rocky shores or over rock bottoms or mussel beds, you'll find that the bank, round or egg-shaped sinkers are less apt to hang up than the pyramids.

If you are bothered by crabs, blowfish or other pests when fishing on the bottom, add a float or cork to the leader of either of the two rigs above. And, even if you are not bothered by the pests, it often helps to add one of the bright red or orange florescent corks to your leader to keep the bait suspended and moving above the bottom where this action is more likely to attract certain fish.

When fishing from jetties, breakwaters or rocky shores for such fish as blackfish or porgies, you can use a regular bottom fishing rig with a shorter snell or leader than that used on the two basic surf rigs I have described.

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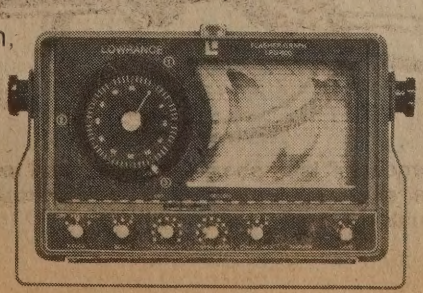

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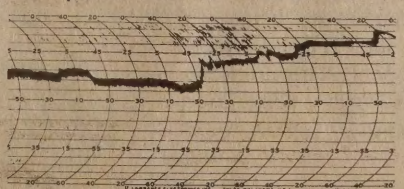

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Assembling the Deep-Trolling Outfit

by Charles A. Witek, III

"Wire line? No thanks, I'll wait until they start to surface. That stuff's no sport—just a lot of work and nuisance."

You've heard such words often, probably even uttered them yourself. Popular opinion is always against the wire rig, and all the detractors have their reasons: the equipment is too unwieldy or too heavy to allow the fish to fight, it is too difficult to keep the line from overrunning and tangling, "it's better to take them on top."

That may be true, but, at least from my point of view, it's "better" to use wire and score rather than to draw a blank after a day of searching and blind casting. A few dry runs is enough to convince all but the most dedicated casters that there must be a more productive method. There is, and it's the one they've been condemning—trolling with wire line.

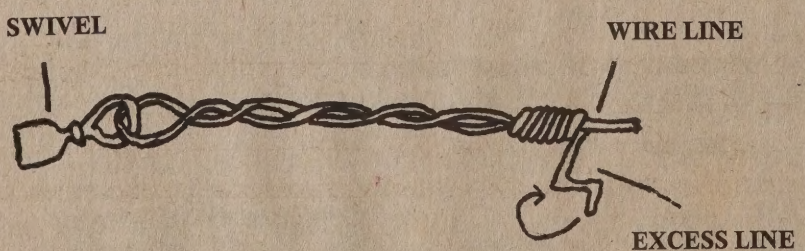
The first step in wire lining is assembling the rig. Start with the rod. It should be somewhere between 5½ and 7 feet in length, with an action suited to the breaking test of the line. All guides should be of a carbide alloy, as wire will saw through stainless guides in the course of one day's trolling. A roller tip is an asset. However, be sure the roller is also composed of carbide, as some of the less expensive rods on the market sport stainless rollers which would be rapidly ruined by wire.

The choice of a reel is the next consideration. Here, there are three major schools of thought. The first school prefers a large, sturdy reel with a relatively slow gear ratio, the second prefers a fast, narrow-spooled model, while the third and newest school opts for an extra-large level-wind reel with the guide of the level-wind device spread slightly to accomodate a swivel. Each type of reel has its own particular advantages.

The large reel, generally a 4/0 trolling model, is best employed with the sort of heavy wire rig used when trolling umbrella rigs in the rips at the eastern end of Long Island, an area where big fish, fast currents and heavy boat traffic team up to require heavy lines and strong drags.

The narrow-spooled reels, best exemplified by the Penn 49M, are possibly the best choice for all-around wire lining, as they combine a fast retrieve with a fairly large line capacity, the narrow spool making it easier to spool line evenly while reeling in.

The level-wind also does this for the troller; however, it has the disadvantage of a slower gear ratio, and there is always the chance of the level-wind mechanism picking up debris and jamming, rendering the reel inoperative.



Haywire twist. Wind wire around itself 5 to 8 times, then wrap end of wire around standing portion 6 to 10 times. Form crank from excess line and twist until wire breaks. Avoid cutting excess wire, as cutting would result in jagged edges.

The level-wind reel is the best choice for the novice deep-troller, though, as it does facilitate the even spooling of line, and so eliminates what is the cause of most problems encountered when using wire. If the line goes on the reel smoothly, barring complete inattention it will run off just as well.

The line itself also offers a number of choices. There are three different types of wire, and another line, lead core, which is generally grouped in with them. Getting lead core out of the way first— its only advantage is that it is relatively soft, and will not spring off the spool like wire. This makes it much easier to handle. Lead core has a large diameter, and so requires a larger reel and does not sink as deep as wire. Lead core also weakens after being used a few times, having a tendency to do so from the inside out. For these reasons it is best avoided.

Of the three varieties of wire, two types, nylon coated and braided wire, are undesirable for various reasons. This leaves the prospective troller with single-strand wire as the best possible choice. Single-strand runs deep, is relatively inexpensive and has a fairly long life. Its disadvantages are a springiness, which tends to cause on-the-reel snarls, and a tendency to kink if mishandled.

There are two types of single-strand wire commonly used in salt water: stainless steel and monel. Monel has many adherents as it is softer than stainless and has less of a tendency to spring up while being let out. Detractors of monel point to the line's tendency to weaken significantly and snap at any point where it kinks, while kinks in stainless can be repaired by unlaying the kink along the lines on which it formed. (Tight kinks in stainless, or any kink in monel, should be cut out of the line and the two sections joined with interlocking loops or a small swivel.) Stainless is also less expensive than monel, has a longer life and so, at least for hard use, is probably the better choice.

The reel is generally loaded with 100 yards of wire line. But before the wire goes on, the reel is partially filled with backing—dacron line of somewhat greater strength than wire—which serves the dual purpose of cushioning the reel spool and providing the reserve

of line needed when fighting a fish. One hundred yards of backing is minimum, and it is best to put as much backing as possible on the reel, as the greater diameter of the spool plus backing increases the speed of the retrieve.

A small swivel is tied to the free end of the backing, and it is to the other eye of this swivel that the wire line is attached by means of a haywire twist (see diagram). The wire will test somewhere between 30 and 60 pounds, depending on use and the preference of the angler; the lighter wire being best suited for trolling such as is found in Long Island Sound, in relatively slow currents and with smaller lures. Lines of up to 60 pound test are well-suited for trolling umbrella rigs in the rips for big striped bass.

Many trollers prefer to mark their lines so that they may more easily return to a productive depth. Methods for this range from using strips of tape to drops of solder. Possibly the best method is to slip a small piece of plastic insulation from electrical wire over the line while it is being loaded onto the reel. When the marker is at a suitable point on the line, (wire is generally marked at 25 yard intervals) the insulation is heated, causing it to shrink and cling to the line. This makes a marker which can be felt at night, and with which, using different color insulation for each marker, the amount of line out can be noted at a glance. Once the markers are on, the attachment of a snap-swivel to the end of the wire completes the rig.

A leader is used to connect the lure to the line. Made of heavy monofilament, the typical leader is attached to the line's snap-swivel by means of a loop, and employs a terminal snap or snap-swivel to which the lure is clipped. Leaders generally run from five to ten feet in length, although some trollers regularly use leaders measuring twenty feet or more. These very long leaders are not necessary for use with most lures, but must be employed when trolling plugs, as short leaders will not allow a plug to exhibit full action.

Various types of lures are trolled on wire line, and most are effective on both striped bass and bluefish. In many places, umbrella rigs, spreaders, or other multiple rigs are popular. The surgical tube is also a popular lure, with red often the most effective color, although black or amber tubes can be very productive. Spoons, too, work well, with the big bunker spoons accounting for numbers of large stripers. Red and

(Continued on page 35.)

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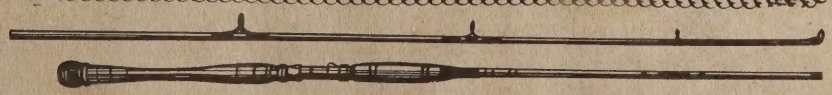

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Tides & Currents

by Scott Simons

Ring-a-ding-ding-ding—

"Long Island Fisherman. Can I help you?"

"Yes, there's something wrong with your tide tables this week. I went fishing yesterday and the high tide according to the tide tables was supposed to be at 8:30. But the tide didn't stop running until after eleven. What's wrong?"

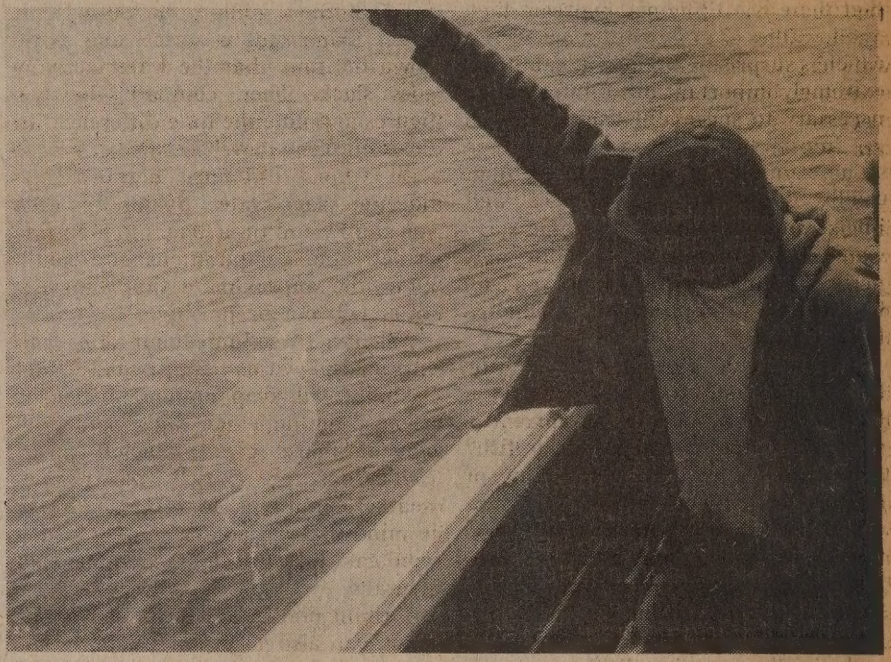
This question is asked repeatedly each week by bewildered fishermen who call The L.I.F. offices. We carefully explain what their error is, but, judging by the amount of calls received, there must be many fishermen with the same questions who haven't called. The explanation is simple and, once understood, will result in the saving of many wasted hours of unproductive fishing.

The answer is in the current. Your greatest concern as a fisherman is **not** what time the water is high or low, but what time the **current** stops moving and becomes **slack**. Same thing, you say? WRONG! Just because high tide is at 8:30 does not necessarily mean that the water stops moving at the same time, as the angler above discovered.

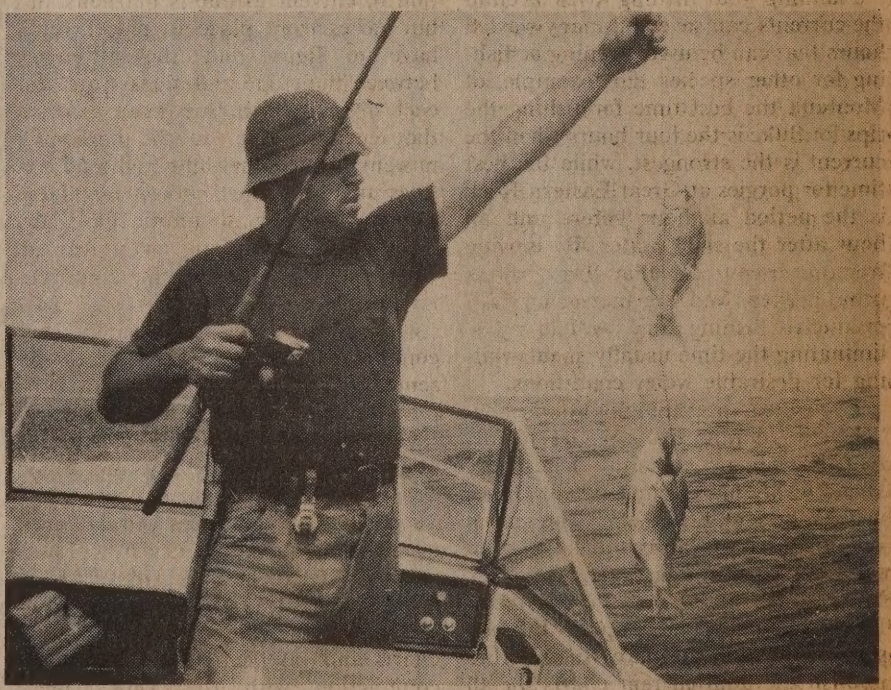
The "high tide" prediction for 8:30 only means that at that time the water will reach the **highest level** it will obtain during that particular tide. The same holds true for the lowest level of the low tide.

The water is slack during the short time that it pauses before changing direction. The water is at its "flood" stage up to the time it slacks after incoming, and is at its "ebb" stage from then until it slacks after outgoing. The water runs in each stage for about six hours, and takes approximately a half hour to slow down, stop, change directions and start moving again. So you usually have about six-and-a-half hours during the ebb and the flood stages of the tide.

For example, let's suppose that at the area you are going to fish the flood tide begins to run at 5:30 a.m. After the water has been coming in for three hours it reaches its highest level. Therefore, 8:30 a.m. will be given in the tide



When drifting for fluke you want to know when the current is moving, while...



...anchoring for porgies requires a slack current.

tables for the high tide. But the water will **continue** to come in for another three hours before it slacks again. This is because while the current is bringing water into your area it is also moving water into other areas past you that have not yet obtained their highest level.

Quite a few fishermen do not know that there is a difference between high and low tides as opposed to slack water, which is surprising because it can be an extremely important bit of information necessary to successful fishing. If you are bottom fishing in an area with a strong running current, such as that usually found around bridges and inlets, you must know what time slack water is because it may be the only period of time during which you can hold bottom without using a ridiculously large sinker.

Why arrive at a bridge to do a little blackfishing only to discover that you have to wait two hours for the current to slow down enough to allow you to fish? If you are going to be chumming or drifting for fish you will want to know when the current starts and stops moving so that you may time your fishint trip accordingly. When you plan on spending a day drifting for fluke, it's senseless to knock yourself out to arrive early in the morning if the water is going to go slack on you an hour later.

Planning your fishing trips around the currents can save you many wasted hours that can be used sleeping or fishing for other species. For example, at Montauk the best time for fishing the rips for fluke is the four hours when the current is the strongest, while the best time for porgies at Great Eastern Rock is the period an hour before and an hour after the slack water. By moving from one area to the other during these prime periods you are increasing your productive fishing time twofold by eliminating the time usually spent waiting for desirable water conditions.

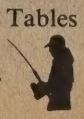
By now you are probably wondering, "Well, if all this business about currents is true, why doesn't The Long Island Fisherman print current tables instead of high tide tables?" The reason is simple: space limitations. Just to publish the tidal current charts for Block Island Sound and Eastern Long Island Sound would consume **thirteen pages** in The Fisherman. In order to publish the tidal current charts for all the areas around Long Island that fishermen frequent, the equivalent of several issues would have to be published **each week**. Needless to say, monetary and space limitations make this impossible, so The Fisherman does the next best thing by publishing the high tide tables each week.

Knowing the time of the high and low tides give you a starting point for computing slack water. The next time you fish your favorite area figure out when the high tide is going to be and write it down. Bring out a watch and write down the time that the water actually goes slack. Then compare the two figures and note the time difference. In the example we have been using there is a three hour difference between high tide and slack water. So for this area you simply add three hours to high tide or low tide computations and you'll know the **approximate** time that the water will not be moving.

Whenever reading about tides and currents the words "approximate" and "usually" will keep popping up. This is because the high tide tables and tidal current charts give **predicted** times. Predictions are based on **normal** weather conditions, so it must be borne in mind that variants such as a strong wind can throw off the predictions considerably.

Certain phases and positions of the moon can also vary times, so don't be surprised if your computations are off up to an hour now and then. The relation of current to tide is not constant, but varies from place to place; you'll have to figure out the difference between high tide and slack water for each area you fish. Just keep in mind that currents refer to the horizontal movement of water while high and low tides are the vertical movement of the water; you then shouldn't have any trouble understanding why certain water conditions exist during a particular period of time.

Currents and tides are certainly more complicated than they have been presented in this article, but they have been written about in general terms so that the average angler can understand their relationship to successful fishing. If you are interested and want to learn more about currents and tides you can pick up the Tidal Current Chart for your area for a dollar and the Tidal Current Tables for two dollars at any authorized sales agent for National Ocean Survey charts and publications. Use these in conjunction with the Tide Tables published in The L.I.F.



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How To Fool A Fluke

by Ron Onorato

The boat was drifting lazily along the edge of the channel and except for a few sea robins there was little sign of life. In the foreground, we could see some party boats drifting. "Let's make a move," commented Vin Pirro, indicating that we should move up a little closer to the party boats. Since we were doing nothing, that made sense.

As we approached I kept them under surveillance. The boats were working a relatively small piece of bottom, making very short drifts. The captain would pull the boat upwind of the area and drift back over it. Once in the productive area, we could see the net going over the side and some sizable fluke brought in.

Taking the cue from the skippers, I moved the boat upwind of the area and cut the engine. I was using a strip of squid and a live killie, while Vin used a whole smelt. Both were rigged on 4/0 Eagle Claw hooks on three-foot leaders six inches above the sinker.

We both got our lines down simultaneously and immediately had hits. I had just engaged the reel when something clamped down on the hook. It wasn't a bite or a tug, just steady pressure. I lifted the rod tip sharply and felt solid resistance. As I started to reel the fish in, the line went slack and I reeled in an empty hook. Vin was luckier than I inasmuch as he managed to bring about a five pound fluke to the top before it came off.

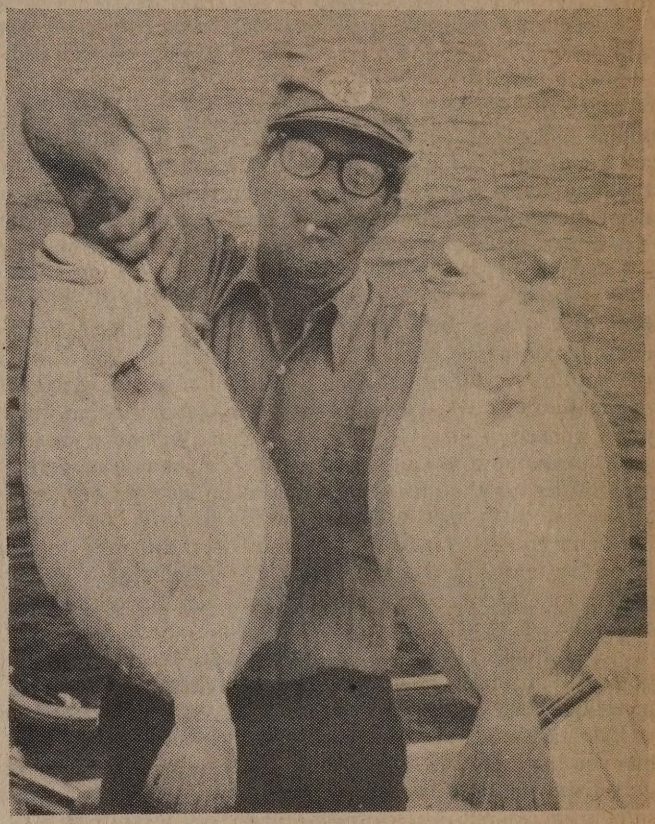
I noticed that the squid was being pulled off the hook every time a fluke hit, so I decided to cut the belly of the small fish so I could get several strip baits. I filleted the thin meat off the back underside of the fish, then cut five-inch strips out of the tough, white meat flesh.

The fluke belly really turned the trick. If a fluke hit the bait and missed, he would come back again until hooked. It was virtually impossible for them to tear the tough fluke belly off the hook. It wasn't even necessary to use another bait on the hook; the strip bait was enough.

Fluke of all sizes charged the bait. The fish ranged from ten inch "rats" to ten pound fish. All that was necessary was to make a drift over the area and the fish would come. It seemed strangely pleasant to catch so many fluke so easily, when just a few scant years ago one was hard-pressed to come up with just a few.

As the end of May rolls around, bottom fishermen have a new challenge to look forward to. Fluke, or summer flounder, make the long journey from the offshore waters of the continental shelf to the bays and sounds of Long Island as the summer temperatures warm the shallower waters. The first few fish are usually taken incidental to flounder fishing around the beginning of May; the main body of fish then begin to enter the inlets around the end of the month. Fishing is good throughout the months of June, July, and August. The first few weeks of September mark the end of the fishing in the bays, with some fish taken in the ocean throught September. The first fish are usually small fish, with the doormats making an appearance in July and holding up till the beginning of September.

The fluke will grow to sizable weights: While the average fish taken will weigh between three and five pounds, fluke are caught up to 20 pounds. Last year saw some 18 and 19 pound fluke taken in local waters.



Vin Pirro holds a couple of doormat fluke.

The fluke is easily distinguished from the flounder by the size of its mouth. The flounder has a small mouth with tiny, rubbery lips, while the fluke has a large mouth with sharp teeth. Many fishermen use the excuse that a small fluke looks like a flounder in an effort to keep undersized fish, but it is a flimsy one.

In 1965 the conservation department passed a size restriction on the length of a fluke that can be legally kept. It set the limit at 14 inches in an effort to protect the fishery. Fishermen must observe this 14-inch minimum size limit, and return small fish.

The fluke is a voracious fish that will pursue bait fish at all levels of water, including the surface. For the most part, however, the fish will be found within the bottom two feet. Baitfish of all kinds, small shrimp, eels, and soft crabs constitute the bulk of the fluke's diet.

The time-honored rig for fluke fishing consists of a long-shank hook on a three-foot leader tied just above the sinker. Though this rig still catches fish, you would do better to make some modifications. Instead of a long-shank hook, select a short-shank Eagle Claw hook; 3/0 would be a good size for bay fishing, while 6/0 will work for bigger fluke in the ocean. In an effort to facilitate the easy release of small fish, file the barb off the hooks you plan to use. You will find that very few

fish are lost on these barbless hooks, provided a steady pressure is kept on the hook.

Rig this hook on a three-foot leader, and instead of tying it just above the sinker, raise it 12 or 15 inches off the bottom. This will keep the hook clear of any bottom debris and will give a better bait presentation to the fish.

Any sort of light bay outfit—spinning or conventional—will work. If you are drifting a foul bottom, go to a little heavier line so that if you snag, you may be able to pull free.

The baits that you can use for fluke are numerous. Live killies hooked through the lips are fine. Sand eels or spearing are good; run the hook through the eye and again through the shoulder. A strip of squid, or as mentioned earlier, a strip from the white belly of the fluke, is also a very good bait. Taper the baits and cut them in lengths ranging from five to six inches. Run the hook through the strip just once.

Fluke will take a wide variety of lures fished close to bottom. The best thing to get to the depths is either a heavy metal lure or a bucktail jig. The jigs are bounced slowly along the bottom, presumably to imitate a shrimp. Plastic shrimp, especially the Lupo plastic shrimp, are also very effective when worked deep. A Hopkins or Kastmaster is allowed to settle to the bottom and then retrieved in sharp jerks to the surface, letting the lure flutter bact to the bottom occasionally.

In an effort to present the bait naturally, trolling or drifting are the usual methods of fishing. Fluke like a moving bait and seldom take a stationary one. If you plan to troll, idle the engine down to the slowest possible, just enough to barely keep the boat going forward. Remember, you're not after blues. When wind and tide are favorable, drifting is the best method.

There are times when you will be unable to drift or troll, but you can anchor and still catch fish. Fluke, like other gamefish, feed to a certain degree with the assistance of smell. Therefore, in an effort to bring fish around your anchored boat, chumming is indispensable.

Ordinary ground bunker is all that is needed to chum with. You will not be doling out the chum as in bluefishing or tuna fishing. Go to the bait store, buy a couple of quarts of bunker chum and throw them into the freezer. When you plan to go fishing take the chum with you in a frozen state. Once on the fishing grounds, place the chum in a pot or mesh bag and weight it down to the bottom. Any fluke in the area will catch the scent and start doting on the tiny bits of bait that are carried by the current. When one frozen brick runs out, replace it with another.

When you are anchored, it is up to the fisherman to give movement to the bait. The best way to do this is to cast the baited rig out away from the boat and slowly retrieve it. Spinning tackle is best suited for this type fishing. In order to help casting range, shorten the leader from three to two feet.

Fluke are found over a wide variety of bottom types. Sandy bottom is usually the best, but a muddy bottom is also good, so long as the mud is not too soft. In the bays you will find good fishing in channels and deep holes. If you plan on ocean fishing for fluke, they will often be found on broken bottom with clumps of rocks and mussels strewn about. Avoid a totally rocky bottom.

As is the case with weakfishing, a good wide-mouthed landing net is a must. With the smaller specimens, you can easily bounce the fish over the side without a net. However, any fish over three or four pounds may require netting, lest they be lost if lightly hooked. Fluke are among the most difficult of fish to net, so a long handle makes the netting easier. Ease the head of the fish towards the net, then scoop the fish up. There is nothing like losing a doormat fluke at boatside.

Virtually all of Long Island's bays had fluke last year. For the first time in many years, they made a showing in Long Island Sound. The ocean areas off Rockaway around the Ambrose Channel and Coney Island had some very fine fishing. Montauk Point boasted some of the finest fluke fishing it had ever seen.

At all of these places, there are livery stations or party boats to accommodate the fishermen without boats. Whenever you catch them, I am certain that you will agree fluke is one of the better-tasting fish around. Respect the 14-inch size limit and assure yourself of future fine fishing.

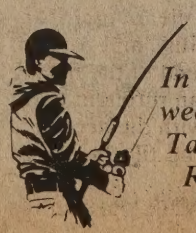
Next Week in LIF:

Wreck Fishing for Doormat Fluke

Old Pirate Fish Stew

Requiem for the Bluefin

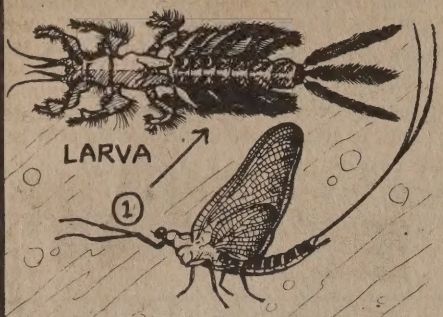
A Day With A Commercial Trawler



In addition to The Fisherman's regular weekly features such as Tide & Solunar Tables, Club News, Chum Lines, News Releases, Contests & Tournaments, and local fishing reports!

BUGS FISH FEED ON

BY FRED GUARDINEER



1 MAYFLIES HATCH IN GREAT NUMBERS AND ARE FED UPON BY BOTH FISH AND BIRDS.

2 DRAGONFLIES FEED ON MOSQUITOES-ARE FAST FLIERS.

3 DAMSELFLIES SECURE ALL THEIR FOOD WHILE IN FLIGHT.

4 STONEFLIES ARE ACTIVE AT NIGHT AND ATTRACTED TO LIGHT.

5 WATER BOATMEN ARE MOSTLY BOTTOM DWELLERS.

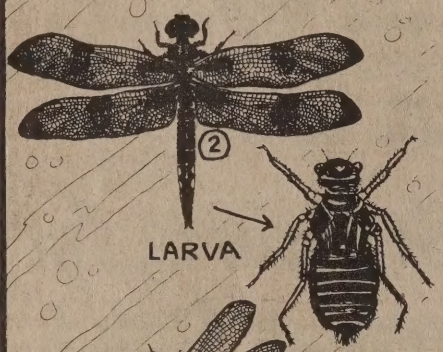
6 BACK SWIMMERS ALWAYS SWIM ON THEIR BACKS AND CAN GIVE YOU A BAD STAB.

7 WATER SCORPIONS ARE BUGS THAT ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE WATER AND STALK VICTIMS LIKE A PRAYING MANTIS DOES ON LAND.

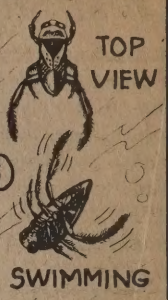
8 GIANT WATER BUGS ARE 3-4 INCHES LONG AND ATTACK ANYTHING THAT MOVES INCLUDING FISH.

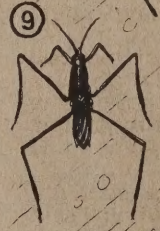
9 WATER STRIDERS SKIP AND DANCE ALL OVER THE POND'S SHALLOWS.

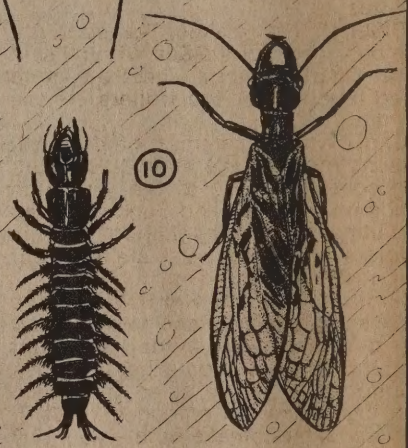
10 DOBSONFLIES COME FROM THEIR HELLGRAMITE LARVAE, A POPULAR FISH BAIT.



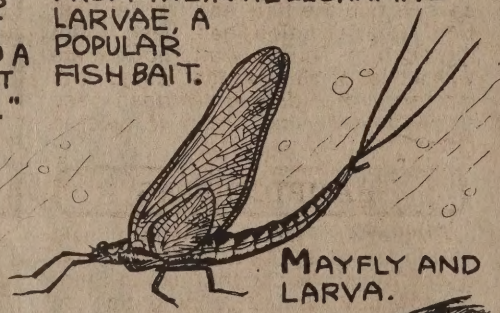
LARVA A GOOD BASS BAIT CALLED A "WHAT IS IT."







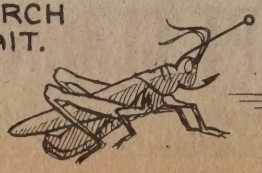
DOBSON OR HELLGRAMITES ARE BEST HOOKED THROUGH COLLAR.



MAYFLY AND LARVA.

DAMSELFLY NYMPH OR "WHAT IS IT" CAN BE HOOKED AS SHOWN. ALSO A GOOD BASS BAIT.

GRASSHOPPERS ARE EXCELLENT BASS AND PERCH BAIT.



A GOOD WAY TO CATCH GRASSHOPPERS AND ASSORTED BUGS FOR BAIT IS TO ATTACH FLY PAPER STRIPS ACROSS THE FRONT OF YOUR CAR AND THEN DRIVE THROUGH HIGH GRASS FIELDS!

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

MONTAUK

Because of the goodly amount of bluefish in the Race and the nearness to these good fishing grounds Capt. Dick Rade of the **Marlin III** will switch from codfishing at Coxes Ledge to bluefishing at the Race. The Marlin III will sail every day at 6:15 A.M. starting Monday, August 5.

Capt. John Sweetman of the **Ebb Tide** has been catching a lot of blues right off Montauk Point during the day. Early morning trolling for striped bass has resulted in some fine catches.

Bluefish have taken the spotlight this past week for the **Sea Witch II** said Capt. Charles Nappi. There are good sized bluefish for the trollers off the Point.

Capt. Whitey Bateman of the **Four Queens** reported the abominable trolling conditions due to the very high winds on Saturday and Sunday forced curtailment or cancellation of his charters. He says the fish are there but you could not stand up to fish.

Mrs. Glas of the **Hel-Cat** said the bluefishing at The Race is terrific. It just gets better day by day and right now this is as it should be. She also mentioned a water skier out there weaving in and out among the boats. **Water skiers please note**—you may be in danger of getting hooked by one of the many lines that are in the water.

The **Helen II** continues to have good fluke fishing on the weekends. This has been the best year so far for fluke fishing as everyone, novice and expert alike, have all gotten fish on every trip.

Johnny Kronuch's Tackle Shop said the surf fishing has been dead all week. A few weakfish have been pulled from the surf but nothing to brag about.

Danny at **Gone Fishing Marina** said the boat renters have all been hitting fluke well. Bluefishing has taken an upswing and can be had from the small boats. Porgies of 1 to 1½ lbs. are being caught under The Lighthouse. Sea bass of ½ to 1 lb. and a few up to 2 lbs. are being taken on the fluke grounds.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper** reports excellent porgy fishing. Friday saw John Anthony of New Hyde Park hi-hook with 181 fish. Bob Berran of Montauk had 144 porgies. Winds not withstanding, the weekend saw good fishing with John Murchison of Highland Falls, N.Y. with 157 porgies.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the **Charterboat Montauk** had Henry Melchiona and party of Ronkonkoma out on Saturday. Henry had a 214 lb. Mako while John Seibold had a 117 lb. White Marlin. The action during the week was pretty good with small hammerhead, tiger, brown and blue sharks being caught. All this action took place about 20 miles southeast of The Point. Capt. Sundberg predicts great fishing after this new moon.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of **Noyac Marina** said they are catching a lot of school-sized weakfish of 1½ to 3 lbs. The Monastery area on an incoming tide with bait has worked wonders for Mike Albert Sr. & Jr. along with John Albert. They had 45 weaks on Sunday. A few snapper blues are also taking this bait. The sea robins population has declined quite a bit allowing good catches of porgies. More and more catches of kingfish are coming in.

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark boats have been reaping a boananza on weakfish. Wednesday saw 185 weaks and just over 500 porgies for 22 fares on the Capt. Clark boat. They made only two stops all day. Capt. Clark II on Friday had over 285 weakfish. Most of these weaks go from 1½ to 2½ lbs.

Offshore action on the weekend was blown out says Mickey Altenkirch. The Shinnecock Anglers will run their contest this coming weekend. The Peconic Bay has a good amount of weaks and porgies. During the week small bluefish have shown on top in the Peconic. Shinnecock Bay continues to produce fluke but Mickey says to fish the flats and bars at high tide. Beach action has been quiet although on Thursday afternoon there was a blitz of bluefish that lasted until evening. After dark the striped bass move in but since then it quieted down.

HAMPTON BAYS

Bradley's Fishing Station said during the week the fluke fishing was good. They have caught fluke in Shinnecock Bay on the running tide on shiners and squid combo. Snapper blues of ¾ to 1¼ pounds have moved in and are hungry for either lures or bait. Weakfish and porgies were being caught at the Girl Scout Camp on hi-lo rigs with squid and sandworm. They have bitten throughout the tides and are from ¾ to 2½ lbs.

MORICHES BAY

Tadsen's Fishing Station reports fluke fishing is best on the flats near the racing buoy E. Bait supplies indicate killies and squid are best. The fluke are running 2 to 4 lbs. with no giants so far this week. Spotty flounder action but good-size fish are in some of the deep channels. The deep water off Great Gun Beach seems one of the better spots.

Chet at **B & B Tackle** said that although the offshore fishing was blown out over the weekend, a few hardy souls went out and caught small tuna on feathers in 90 to 100 feet of water. Further out in 130 feet of water bigger tuna to 40 lbs. were caught but

Joe Obermeier, Brooklyn, with 5¾ lb. fluke he took on a killie and squid combo by buoy 39 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

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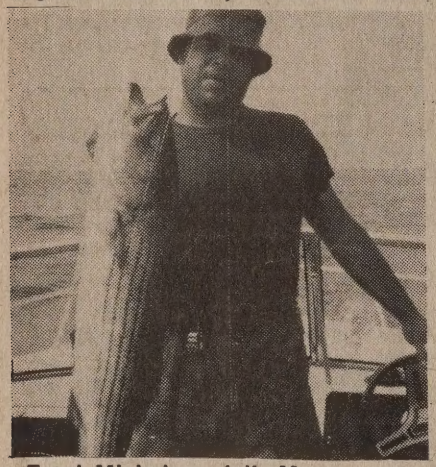
these were small schools and scattered. Snapper blues and weaks are at the mouth of the river and canals. They can be taken on shad darts before the traffic starts. Bluefish trolling both outside and inside the Inlet is good. These same blues are being caught from the beach on plugs or bait. Striped bass action from the beach is in its summer doldrums with no blitzes anywhere. Fluke and flounder fishing holding steady. There is a huge invasion of small snappers and they bite on anything. Crabbing has been fantastic. This should be another banner year for them.

Romona Seifert at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said the fluke fishing was best on the windy days from the Elbow to buoy 36. The calmer days buoys 38 & 39 were better. Squid with killies or spearing were best. Some catches were as high as 20 keepers while the largest fluke went just about 6 lbs.



Frank Michelson, Islip Manor, hetts the 18 pound bass he took clam chumming off the trailer camp at Montauk.

MASTIC BEACH

Freddy at **Keenan's** reports great blue claw crab fishing near buoy 19 and 21. Snapper blues of 1 to 2 lbs. are all over but early morning is best for them. Also at that time east of buoy 21 the weaks are starting to show again. They are taking Salty Dog or Hopkins lures. Some good catches of 21 to 24 inch fluke have been had near the Yellow Buoys by buoy 26 and the Great Gun Beach channel. Fish the outgoing tide with shiners.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jack at **American Sportsman Shop** reports the weakfish of 2 to 3 lbs. are by the flats at Brown River and off Bayport. They are being taken on Salty Dogs and Hopkins. Buoy 3, 4 and 5 at Heckscher has had spotty fluke action. Squid and smelts fish on any moving tide have gotten 3 to 5 lb. fluke. Snappers are at the Sayville Dock and off Sayville and are being taken on small smelts.

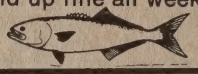
CAPTREE

George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** has been fishing the Acid Waters for bluefish day times. It has been a 50/50 proposition. The best part is that he has been allowing the fares to troll tuna while bluefish hunting. They had a dozen and more each day. The tuna went to 8-14 lbs. Night bluefishing has been very good and close by. About an hour from the dock brings you into good bluefishing south and southeast of the Fire Island Inlet.

Capt. Hubert of the **Speedy V** said the bluefishing during the week was good during the day at the Acid Waters. Night fishing has been mostly south of the Lighthouse. Saturday and Sunday was poor due to the high winds. Plenty of fish when you can get out.

The **Capt. Swanson II** has been fluke fishing in the Inlet and around the Sore Thumb. The fluke range from keepers on up, said Gary Swanson.

Capt. Richie said the fluke fishing has been good. They have been fishing The Inlet and around the Lighthouse area. Sunday saw a couple of five pound fluke take the pool. Fluke fishing has held up fine all week long.



Patti Litwin with an 18 lb. bluefish taken on a night trip by the crew on board the Capt. Ben Litwin.

LINDENHURST

Jack at **Charlie's Bait & Tackle** said Don Trotta and Ted Folka had 22 weaks of 2-4 lbs. fishing Salty Dogs under the Fire Island Bridge. Bluefish and bass have come out of the surf at Cedar Beach as Danny, the mailman, can show. He had blues with a few bass mixed in. He also had a 6 lb. bonito. Trolling the Sore Thumb with umbrella rigs armed with white tubes are pulling in 3 to 6 lb. bluefish along with a few striped bass up to 10 lbs. Crabbing and snapper fishing is excellent. Try the Wellwood Ave. dock.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station says there are some weakfish around taking either Salty Dog lures or a hi-lo rig with squid. Any tide off Bergen Point, and the East-West Channel to Howells Point has produced fish of 3 and 4 lbs. Lots of keeper-sized fluke in Fox Creek, State Channel and East-West Channel are being caught on the incoming tide. Smelts, sand eels along with squid are all taking fluke. Crabs

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are all over the area said Charlie and there are plenty of snappers.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait & Tackle reports good tuna and shark fishing early in the week in about 120 feet of water just west of Fire Island Inlet. Also at the inlet, both inside and out are good sized fluke which are taking sand eels. Fluke can be had in the Amityville Cut and the State Channel. Plenty of snappers all over both from the dock and boat. Crab fishing is starting to come up.

SEAFORD

Del's Fishing Station reports that all their boats came back with fluke. The biggest was 5½ lbs. Snappers are by the shore and all over. Crabs are coming into the canals.

Pop's Fishing Station said the fluke fishing is good at the Four Corners. Killies and squid are picking up fluke of 2 and 3 lbs. and up. Flounders are being caught at some of the deep holes. The crabs are not plentiful as yet but starting. Snappers have started and are around.

WANTAGH

Frank Hecher at **Causeway Bait & Tackle** said there are snappers galore. They are small but no trouble to catch. Weakfish are being taken at night on sand worms and also daytime while drifting for fluke. Fluke are on the flats at high tide and hitting squid and spearing. The West End beach has school bass which are taking sand worms or line eels at night.

MERRICK

Jim Boloukos of **Nick's Fishing Station** reports Gene Reilly and his wife, Mary, caught a 52 lb. and 49 lb. tuna from his boat on Friday. They fished in 70 feet of water on 150 degrees out of Jones Inlet. Gene took three hours to bring in his tuna as both were caught on a Penn 4/0 reel with 20 lb. test line.

Ed Pretakewicz and Steve Boulukos, age 13, with 22 fluke to 5 lbs. they caught at Ned's Creek and Brood Creek in Merrick. Photo courtesy of Nick's Marina, Merrick.

These fish took red and white feathers. Snappers are all over says Jim. Weakfishing at night by the bridges has been a boom or bust proposition. Try worms or squid.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

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GREENPORT

Art White of **A.P. White's Bait Shop** said the porgy fishing is excellent. The **Wilhelric** and other party boats are coming in loaded with good sized porgies. The best area is the east side of Gardiners Island. Worm and clam baits are best. Weakfish are making a good showing in Greenport Harbor. Squid baits are taking 3 to 5 lb. weaks on a moving tide. Blues are being caught by the charter boats at Pidgeon Rip, The Race and east of Gardiners. Diamond jigs, yellow bucktails, smelt or butterfish chunks are turning the trick. Night fishing at Plum Gut will get some striped bass and bluefish mixed. Along the Sound, surfcasters are catching stripers on large swimming plugs. The boatmen are trolling surge tubes with sandworms. All the bass action is during the dark hours.

PECONICS

Peter Lieblein of the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports the porgies are plentiful in the South Ferry area. The weekend weather was rough but a good number of fish were caught anyhow. Larger humpbacked porgies are being taken at Buoy #1 but you must chum for them. Any tide is good. Worms or clams are the proper baits. Louie's Bathing Beach and the Brickyard area are producing fair weakfish catches on squid baits. Incoming tide is best. Some fluke are being taken on live killies and squid at the east end of Gardiners Island. One of the best catches of blowfish seen in years was made over the weekend. The blows were caught at Buoy 12 off Paradise Point.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria of **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** reports the fishing was excellent all week until the wind started on the weekend. Although the fish were still there, the catches were poor over the weekend because it was difficult to drift and present the bait properly. The best spots were Rose Grove and the west side of Robins Island. The best baits are worms and squid for weakfish and worms and clams for porgies. The porgies are plentiful. The fish are hitting best on

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an incoming tide.

JAMESPORT

Warren of **Warren's Tackle Center** reported there are lots of porgies and weakfish are being taken from the Roses Grove area. Sandworms are working best. The weaks are hitting the hi-hook. No particular tides except it must be moving water. Weaks and blues are being caught in the Sound on trolled tubes. Horton's Point is a good spot. The fish are in tight on the beach. Surfcasters are either not doing too well or they are being secretive.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Tackle reports the blues have been up and down along the Sound. This is all top water fishing with either live or chunk bunker. White and Cedar Beaches, about ¼ to ½ mile out, are where they have been getting them. Just look for the birds working. Trolling has had minimal results. Mornings are best for these blues which go from 10 to 12 lbs. Porgies are good all over and are taking sandworms.

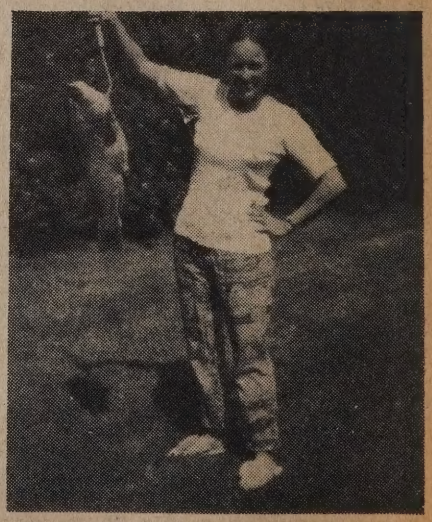
PORT JEFFERSON

John Caraftis of the **Caraftis Fishing Station** reports the bluefish are moving into the bay every morning at dawn to feed on the bunker which are all over the bay. The big blues, 12 to 15 lbs., are only staying for the first couple of hours of daylight and are then moving out again. The best way to catch them is with whole or chunked bunker. Some are being taken on trolled tubes. Out in the Sound, blues are taking trolled tubes and umbrellas on wire about ½ to 1 mile off the beach. Smaller blues are being caught close to the beach on small tubes or spoons. One of the best areas is off Cranes Neck. Bass mixed with blues are being taken at the first and last light in the rips around Cranes Neck. Tubes are the best all around lure but various other plugs and baits are working. Big bass are taking large yellow plugs or live bunker from Miller Place east to Hortons Point. Some of these bass are going 40 to 50 lbs. The best times are evening, night or first light. Porgy fishing livened up again this week. The Bell Buoy off Old Field is producing good porgy catches with some blacks mixed in. Smaller porgies are being taken in the Narrows. There are also school bass in the Narrows.

Capt. Joe Cash of the **Port Jeff Ace** reports that up until Friday night bluefishing was good, however, this action was killed by the winds over the weekend. These blues were caught off Cranes Neck with bunker chunks while chumming. Blacks and porgies are being taken at the Middle Grounds on clam baits. Mostly porgies were caught but the blacks were excellent.

SMITHTOWN BAY

Tim at **Smithtown Sports Shop** reports it was very quiet over the weekend. Occasionally some small 2-3 lb. blues would come up on top in the bay. Plugs thrown at them were gobbled up. Well off of Cranes Neck and very deep were a few blues that went 10 or 12 lbs.



Linda Abrams of East Northport hefts the 10 pound blackfish she caught in 5 feet of water off Eaton's Neck.

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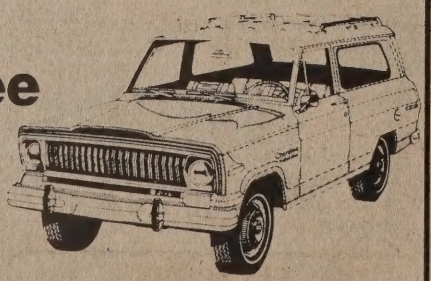

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NORTHPORT

Pete at **Greenlawn Sports Shop** said they are trolling worms off Little Neck Point and Duck Island and picking up striped bass of 12 to 15 lbs. Three ounce Tri-Fin lures trolled at the Deep Hole off Centerport Harbor are taking good sized weakfish. Snappers are plentiful but sardine sized. Spotty bluefish in the harbor.

Mark at the **Chainlocker** reports blues to 8 lbs. taking bunker, Hopkins or trolled red pork rind with a silver spinner. Drifting sandworms at the mouth of the Harbor or casting Hopkins from the rocks there has picked up some school size bass and larger. At the head of the harbor are flounder and porgies.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don Constantin of the **Ever-Ready Fleet** said the very early morning blue fishing trip (3 A.M. to 7 A.M.) has turned out to be so successful that all his help want to go on it. They have been averaging over 30 blues each trip. Many of these fish are not less than 10 lbs. and as high as 18 lbs. or more. These fish are caught in Huntington Bay. Bottom fishing during the day at Marshall Field or Eatons Neck sees very big porgies being caught.

George Valentine of the **Four Winds Tackle** reports the bunker are heavy in Huntington Harbor. Fishermen have picked bunker off the Shore Rd. and used them to catch blues right off the rocks. It has been dynamite blue fishing in the harbor right up till Sunday. These blues are 9 to 12 lbs. and a few to 15 lbs. all caught on bunker. Bass fishermen working the beach have wound up with blues instead of bass. Clam chumming off Eatons Neck is still the best bet even though these are schoolies. Worm trolling on Tuesday and Thursday night produced fish up to 22 lbs.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Milt Pawles of **Veteran's Fishing Station** said they have gotten bluefish up to 12 lbs. and better bunker fishing in the early morning at the head of the harbor. Andy Carminato of Huntington trolled over 100 striped bass off the east shore of the harbor. Andy fishes in the early morning. On Saturday 14 weaks and a 7½ lb. fluke were caught on worms. These were taken on an incoming tide near the Sewanhoka Yacht Club. Porgies and blacks are out near the red buoy where the harbor meets the Sound.

BAYVILLE

Pumps Park Fishing Station reports improved bluefish action at Centre Island Reef. Blues of 5 to 13 lbs. were taking bunker or umbrella rigs. Porgies are not bad but could improve. They are all over but mainly at the reef. The porgies are running ¾ to 1 lb.

Andrew Starace weighed in this 33½ pound bass he took on a drifted sandworm at Hart's Island at Jack's Bait & Tackle, Bronx.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait & Tackle reports good bluefish trolling at Stepping Stones and in Hempstead Harbor using John Sekora's tubes. Bass fishing off the rocks using worms or line bunker if available has brought in bass from 5 to 40 lbs. Good porgy fishing in Hempstead Harbor on the sandy bottoms.

CITY ISLAND

John Palmieri of **John's Gun & Tackle** in the Bronx was out on Zack Grossman's boat, Striper Hawk with Lou Sabatello. They fish Sunday morning before dawn with mackerel chunks near Harts Island and came up with a 5 and a 23½ lb. bass. They also had six blues to 12 lbs. using the mackerel bait on the bottom. This type action is also going on at Fort Slocum, New Rochelle and Huckleberry Island. Porgies are very good and are everywhere. John said the party boats are having great catches of bluefish by jigging under the Bronx-Whitestone or Throggs Neck bridges.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

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FREEPORT

Aloma II skipper "Spider" Schmidt says things were a bit slow Saturday with about 50 fish for 13 fares. Sunday was very good, in spite of the wind.

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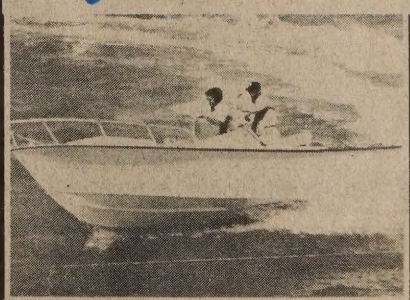

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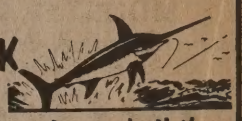

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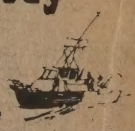

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FLOUNDER • FLUKE • WEAKS
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EVERY EVENING: 6PM-Midnight
Sails from end of Union Ave.,
Center Moriches
Capt. Ron (516) 878-4162

Running ½ hr. S. of the Inlet, 175 blues came over the side, with 3 times as many lost due to the funny way they were hitting.

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** says bluefishing was very good Friday, all fish 3-9 lbs. In spite of strong S. winds, fish were picked steadily, tho more slowly on Saturday and Sunday.

Capt. Al Lindroth of the **"Capt. Al"** reports very good for blues up to the weekend, when the S. winds put the fish down a bit. Fish were taken, though, slow and steady.

The **Night Owl** had great bluefishing Thursday and Friday nite S/E of the pipeline. Saturday 44 8-10 lb. football tuna and one 18 lb. were trolled on feathers and cedar jigs.

Capt. Jack VI is still going strong on fluke weekdays. On Friday, the infamous G. Korn of Merrick took his biggest fluke ever, a 6 pounder, on the equally infamous Killer Fluke Rig. As the flatfish was about to yank Korn over the side, he was heard to mumble "I think I got one...".

Capt. Lou II is doing a good job on fluke off Reis Park and outside the inlet.

Capt. Steve of the **Sea Hunter** called to say his weekday charters for blues have all had excellent catches and that he's running as an open boat Friday and Saturday eve., 7 P.M., 15 man limit.

OUT OF STATE

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First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle

POINT LOOKOUT

The **Junior II** fished S. of the pipeline Thursday and had blues and footballs 8-10 mi. out of Jones Inlet. One blue ran 15 lbs. They had blues heavy again on Saturday.

Capt. Art White of the **Angler II** has been fishing and doing well on blues at the Stain and Cholera, taking bonus catches of bonita and tuna.

Ed's Fishing Station reports fluking in Reynolds Channel was very good up 'till the Hurricane Weekend, but even on those 2 blowy days, those with savvy came back with fluke. (The fluking shold be back to normal by the time you read this report) The moon tides didn't help any either. Snappers are in, full force, all along Reynolds Channel, on lures and spearing. 6 weaks were taken at the junction of Reynolds Channel and the Inlet on squid. Still flounders at Swift Creek and the Coast Guard Station.

LONG BEACH

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reports that fluke have been plentiful (last weekend excluded) in Reynolds Channel. Also, snapper fishing from skiffs and piers and docks has been very good, on spearing.

ISLAND PARK

The charterboat **Nova V** on Wednesday had a 300 lb. tigershark (which was landed in 10 min.) and tuna which took mackerel intended for shark.

Beckman's Tackle Shop in Lynbrook reports that Thursday, Friday and Saturday were productive fishwise, but the wind killed things Saturday P.M. and Sunday. On Thursday, bass were plugged from a boat off the Rockaways by Bill Beckmann & Don Bingler, to the tune of 13 linesiders. Fluke and snappers alive and well. Good crabbing locally, with the bridge over Schaefer's Creek one of the spots. Bay Park in E. Rockaway for sand porgies, snappers and crabs.

Point Lookout Island Park

Angler II
POINT LOOKOUT MARINA

7A.M. BLUES 7P.M.
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FAST 85' OPEN BOAT
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BLUES • BLUES DAILY 7 AM
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34' SPORTFISHERMAN—6 PASS. LIMIT
INSHORE & OFFSHORE CHARTERS—All Elect.
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Junior II
TUNA—BLUES—SHARKS
TROLLING and/or CHUMMING
6 Passenger Limit
Capt. Andy Pollio (516) GE 7-3381

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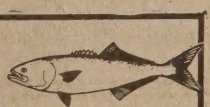
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MORNINGS (8 AM-12 NOON) EVENINGS (8 PM-12 MIDNITE)

BLUES-$8 DAILY 7 DAYS A WEEK (3 AM-7 AM)
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BLUES-$8 DAILY MON.—FRI. (8 AM-12 NOON)
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BOTTOM-$6 ½ DAY $10 Whole Day TWO TRIPS—Sat., Sun. & Holidays (8am/12pm) and (1pm/5PM)

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SAIL-HO! Capt. Don says "Bring A Smile and Stay Awhile..."

On beautiful, scenic Long Island Sound, at Knutson's Marina, North Yard. L.I. Expressway, Exit 49 North to end of Rt. 110N (New York Ave) Huntington (Next to Halesite Fire Department)

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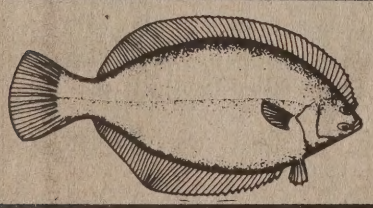

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BETTY W

BLUEFISH

OPEN BOAT

WEEKDAYS 7:30 A.M.

NIGHTS 7:30 P.M. EXCEPT TUES. & THURS.

SAT. & SUN. CHARTERS AVAILABLE

CAPT. JOHN FISCHER FOR RES. CALL (516) 744-9853

Port Jeff Ace

OPEN BOAT • DAILY 8AM

"COME TO WHERE THE FISH ARE"

PORGIES
FLUKE
BLACKS

8 A.M.

NIGHT BLUES 7PM

WEEKDAYS—REDUCED RATES for Children & Senior Citizens!

—Small & Large Charters Arranged—
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65 FT. OPEN BOAT

PORGIES—8AM DAILY

Mitchell's Dock, GREENPORT

Capt. Richard Jensen (516) 477-1922

A.P. White Bait Shop

FISHING TACKLE

CHARTER BOATS • OPEN BOATS

Reservations—(516) 477-0008

Ft. of 1st St., GREENPORT, L.I., N.Y.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller at **Henning's Fishing Station** reports loads of fluke and snappers and 1-1½ lb. blues in Reynolds Channel. 79-year-old Morris Kahn had 6 keeper fluke Friday to 4½ lbs. and a 5½ lb. weak at buoy 5, E. of the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Alex Sreter on his "Lucky S" ran to the canyon Friday and nailed a 74¼ lb. white marlin. Fred Hill at the H.A. Buoy took big blues and a 6 and 6.6 lb. spanish mackerel.

JAMAICA BAY

Bill at **Noehren's Tackle Shop**, Cross Bay Blvd., reports plenty of crabs and snappers at the North Channel Bridge. Fluking good in the Marine Parkway Bridge area and in Long Beach Channel. Fluke at the Tin Can Grounds. Weaks at the Marine Parkway Bridge drifting worms on the bottom. Sand porgies at the South Channel Bridge.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Amberjack IV skipper, Capt. Frad, says bluefishing has been good days and nights, fishing the Stain & Cholera and off Jersey. Weekend winds reduced catches a bit, but should take off again as soon as the winds stop (which is now, as this report is being written).

Capt. Dom of the **"Mary"** has been having good porgy fishing, 15-20 per man on a poor day and many more on a normal day. One of the local hot spots is the artificial reefs off Reis Pk.

Mike's Tackle Shop reports fair-good bluefishing for the fleet E. of the Stain. Very good weakfishing at Sandy Hook drifting sandworms, and very good fluking off Seabright. Good catches of porgies and sea bass.

Bay End Dock reports very good fluking on the Plumb Beach flats, off the jetty on spearing, squid and sand eels. Fish high moving water. Weaks via jigs, trolling and drifted squid strips at the Channels. Stripers 5-6 lbs. with an occasional 20 pounder at the Tin Can Grounds & the Roundhouse, chumming and trolling tubes (Bingles) and white bucktails. Lots of crabs and small porgies on worms at the Roundhouse & Louie's Pier.

STATEN ISLAND

Lennie at **Santo's** reports that in the surf at South Beach and the Bergen Ave. storm sewers from eve/dawn, blues averaging 9 lbs. are being consistently taken on bunker and butterfish. It's a waiting game, but persevere—you'll have fish. Schoolie bass and weaks in daylight.

Boats fishing the Cedar Grove/Verrazano Bridge are trolling tubes and drifting the bottom are getting blues.

A 7', 125 lb. gray shark was taken ¼ mi. off Cedar Grove by 12-year-old Glen Brill while drifting for blues. Great Kills for 2-3 lb. blues and the

jetty for fluke and sand porgies. Snappers and blue claw crabs in Great Kills Harbor. Weakfish 3-5 lbs. on drifted worms in the Anadale buoy 4 area, and buoys 20-27 at Pricess Bay with drifted worms and trolled Bingle Bananas.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Sport fishermen are being asked to collect scale samples from striped bass for a research project initiated by the Striped Bass Fund, Inc. Taken from the area indicated by arrow; above the lateral line, between the hard and soft dorsal fins; the scales will assist in determining spawning areas of this important game fish.

Three to ten scales together with exact fork length of the fish, location and date of capture are required. If the fish is to be released, three scales are requested—ten scales from fish to be kept. Scales should be sent to: Dr. C. P. Goodyear, Environmental Science Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37840.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

SANDY HOOK

Julian's reported big bass on bunker from cartoppers. Three bass over 40 pounds were weighed in and several in the high 30's. School stripers are hitting worms along the beach at night and poppers & swimming plugs in the morning.

Bluefishing has died out, except for small blues at the head of the bay. These are small fish to 4 pounds. Weakfishing is holding up well at Chapel Hill Channel on worms and bucktails with squid.

SEABRIGHT

Giglio's reports hot bass fishing all along the beach. These fish are taking worms at night and poppers in the morning. The red tide, which does extend this far north, is not hampering the action. Tin boats are hitting bigger bass just off the beach on live bunker.

LONG BRANCH

Steve's Bait & Tackle reports excellent striper action at the jetties in Deal & Long Branch on rigged eels and poppers. Fluke action has been good on squid and fluke belly. Blackfish are hitting on clams, fiddlers, and sandworms.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

BRIDGEPORT

Good bluefishing around buoys 18, 20 and Charles Island. Jigging wire with Saran or Feathers or Silver Queens pays off. Chunk bait scores up in the harbors. Porgies all over.

STRATFORD

Blues and schoolies at Milford breakwater. Worms and clam necks for blacks in the same area. Harbor blues and choppers are taken up beyond Railroad bridge in the river. Fluke have slowed.

WESTPORT

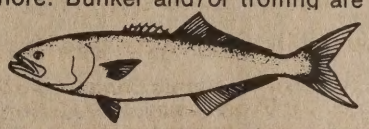
Bluefish mid-sound from Westport. Wire w/a Tri-Fin did it. Snappers and Harbors plentiful near shore.

MAMARONECK

The harbor is full of porgies when you can get your bait past the blues. Cut bunker, live bunker, dead bunker, all score on bass and blues.

WHITE PLAINS

Bluefish everywhere. Inshore on the bass grounds, in the harbors, and offshore. Bunker and/or trolling are the



The Long Island FISHERMAN

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BOATS & MOTORS
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TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
8/8 THURSDAY	11:45	11:58	1:00	1:29	2:40	3:03	3:02	3:25
8/9 FRIDAY	-	12:29	1:42	2:15	3:25	3:49	3:46	4:11
8/10 SATURDAY	12:46	1:18	2:33	3:06	4:13	4:39	4:36	5:02
8/11 SUNDAY	1:41	2:15	3:32	4:02	5:07	5:35	5:35	5:59
8/12 MONDAY	2:45	3:19	4:37	5:05	6:07	6:36	6:36	7:03
8/13 TUESDAY	3:57	4:29	5:42	6:05	7:12	7:42	7:41	8:04
8/14 WEDNESDAY	5:09	5:38	6:42	7:04	8:26	8:54	8:44	9:06
8/15 THURSDAY	6:15	6:37	7:39	7:59	9:42	10:03	9:42	10:03

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0 00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

PHASES OF THE MOON

8-17	8-24	8-3	8-11
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

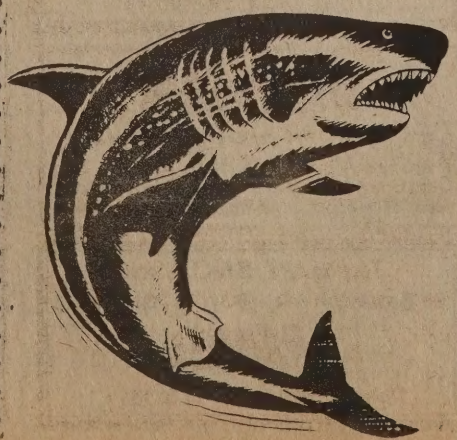
Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

WARNING!

It is illegal to keep Fluke under fourteen inches. This law is being enforced with stiff fines. So be a sport and throw the little ones back for next year... and save money, too!



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NEW ROCHELLE

Porgies, porgies, porgies throughout the area. Bass are good outside Fort Slocum on bunker with blues to 10-12 lbs. mixed.

GREENWICH

Blues around Greenwich Cove with mornings the best time, bunker the best bait. Trollers score near buoy 32A. Umbrellas, tubes and the Troll-King payed off.

STAMFORD

Bass from 15-46 pounds came in from the local waters this week. What on? Bunker. Bluefish are going wild—try Lord's Point and Staford Harbor.

NORWALK

The Stamford Cows produced two bass over fifty pounds this week. Bunker of course. Porgies at buoy 24B with fluke mixed. Blues popping up outside the islands.

WEST HAVEN

Bluefish are in thick. Mackerel chunks and bunker chunks are the baits. They're on the beach and in the harbor with boaters also scoring on school bass.

Mrs. Robert Pynn and Mrs. Wilbur Falk took these two beautiful weakfish from the surf in the Bramford, Connecticut area. Both ladies said they got quite a thrill from the hard-hitting weaks.

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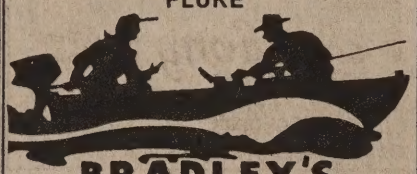

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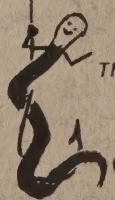

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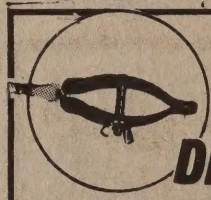

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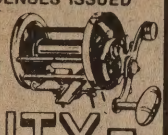
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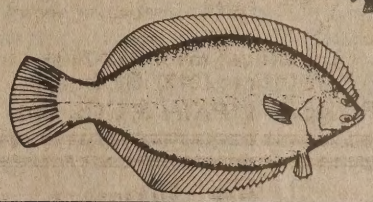
Assembling the Deep-Trolling Outfit

(Continued from page 11.)

white and yellow Ragmops are dependable, as are nylon jigs, especially those with white or yellow hair. The addition of a strip of porkrind makes all these lures more effective.

Big plugs are also productive trolling lures. Blue or mackerel finishes generally take the most bass, while blues seem to prefer yellow. Depending on water conditions and the bait present, however, the fish may hold out for other finishes, so experimentation is indicated.

That's all there is to a deep-trolling outfit. Make one up, give it a fair try, and score when the pluggers come in empty-handed.



The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish
Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

Thurs.	9:05	**3:15**	9:25	**3:35**
Fri.	9:50	**4:00**	10:10	**4:25**
Sat.	10:40	**4:55**	11:05	**5:20**
Sun.	11:35	**5:50**	11:55	**6:15**
Mon.	-	**6:40**	12:30	**7:10**
Tues.	12:50	**7:35**	1:25	**8:00**
Weds.	1:45	**8:30**	2:15	**9:00**
Thurs.	2:40	**9:25**	3:15	**9:55**

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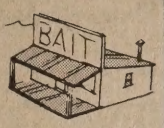

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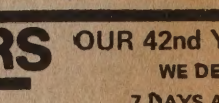

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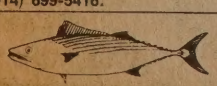

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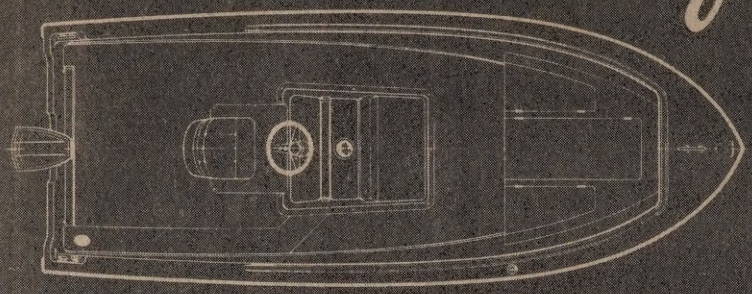

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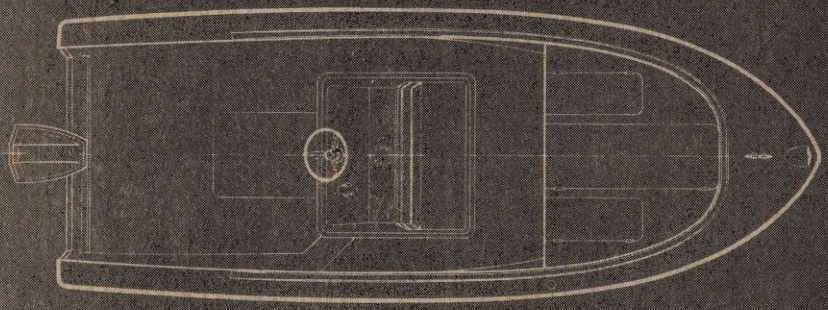

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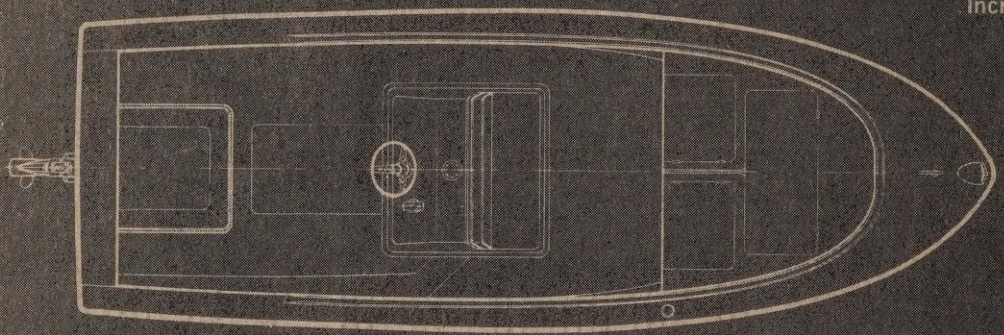

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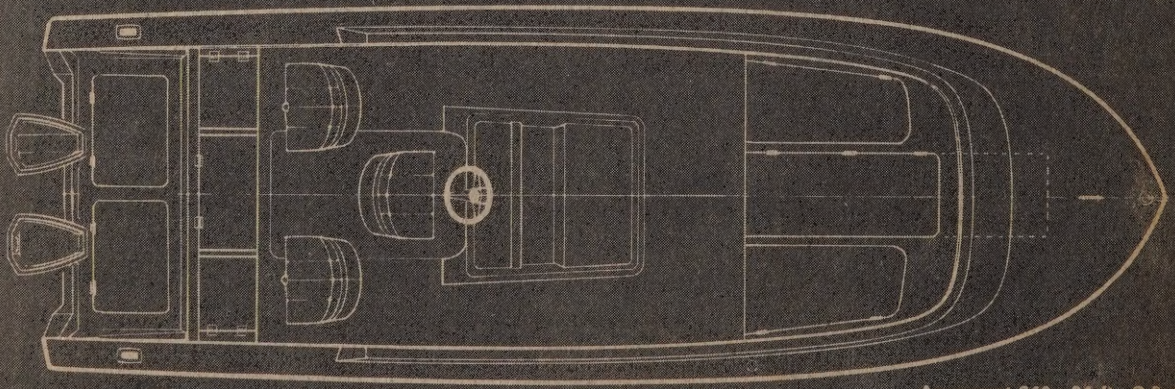

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